

REMARKS

The enclosed Declaration Under Rule 132 is submitted herewith in support of applicants' prior Amendment of May 15, 2006, in the above-identified patent application. Specifically, the enclosed Declaration supports the amendment to the specification regarding the numbering system used in the amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4).

The Declaration states that the precursor proteins and mature proteins for the α L and α M proteins have different lengths. The protein sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4 are the amino acid sequences of the precursor proteins. However, the numbering system used for the mutants is based on the corresponding mature protein. The precursor protein for SEQ ID NO:2 includes 25 additional amino acids, as compared with the mature protein, while the precursor protein for SEQ ID NO:4 includes 16 additional amino acids, as compared to the mature protein. Consequently, the corresponding amino acids for the mutations can be calculated by adding either 16 or 25 to the respective precursor protein sequence.

In view of the aforementioned facts and reasons, the pending claims and specification of this application are now believed to overcome any remaining objections and rejections, and to satisfy all requirements for patentability. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if this would serve to advance the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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